

DEREE COLLEGE SYLLABUS FOR:

PS 4363 SOCIAL COGNITION -LEVEL 6
(Spring 2015)

3/0/3
UK CREDITS: 15

PREREQUISITES: PS 3026 Social Psychology-Level 5
PS 3018 Research Methods in Psychology-Level 5
PS 3134 Experimental Cognitive Psychology-Level 5

**CATALOG
DESCRIPTION**

Integration of two major fields of psychology, social and cognitive psychology. Critical analysis of theories, methods and practical applications centered on how people think about themselves and make sense of their social environment. Emphasis on the cognitive processes as well as on the shared and interactive nature of people's perceptions and experiences in contemporary, everyday contexts.

RATIONALE

This course aims to provide an in-depth knowledge and understanding of social psychological phenomena by examining the underlying cognitive processes. Further, it aims to explore how the field of Social Cognition is applied to everyday settings and contributes to our understanding of social self and the social environment. Topics to be covered include but are not limited to attribution theories and errors, stereotypes, schemas formation and change, self-schemas, self-regulation and self-presentation, processes of social cognition, the role of affect, cognitive approaches to attitudes and behavior. It is designed for Psychology majors and students interested in understanding the intrapersonal, interpersonal, intragroup and intergroup processes.

**LEARNING
OUTCOMES**

As a result of taking this course students should be able to:

1. Explain the tensions, the theoretical underpinnings as well as the methodologies used to investigate this new area of integration of cognitive and social psychology
2. Organize and critically evaluate the theories, evidence, and practical applications centered on the basic issue of how people make sense of their social environment
3. Combine new developments in cognitive psychology on attention,

memory and inference with those emerging from the study of social phenomena (e.g. attitudes, attributions, stereotyping, prejudice)

4. Critically evaluate ethical issues, and compare and contrast theories as well as quantitative and qualitative (e.g. discourse approaches) methodological approaches in the study of social cognition

METHOD OF TEACHING AND LEARNING

In congruence with the teaching and learning strategy of the College, the following tools are used:

- Lectures in combination with group discussions
- Office hours
- Use of Blackboard site

ASSESSMENT

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|--|-----|---|
| In-class Formative assessments | 0% | Essay questions (2 out of 4) |
| Critical review paper–Summative | 50% | A critical discussion and evaluation of theoretical and methodological approaches to the study of a key topic of social cognition (3,000 words) |
| In-class Final examination (2 hours) - Summative | 50% | Essay questions (3 out of 5) |

The formative assessments aim to prepare students for the summative assessments.

The critical review paper assesses learning outcomes 2 and 4.

The Final Examination assesses learning outcomes 1, 2 and 3 with emphasis on 1 and 3.

READING LIST

1. Required Material

Fiske S.T. and Taylor, S.E. (2013) *Social Cognition From Brains to Culture* (2nd ed.), NY: Sage

2. Supplementary Reading

Augoustinos, M., Walker, I., & Donaghue, N. (2014). *Social Cognition: An integrated Introduction*. London: Sage

3. Recommended Reading

Bandura A. (1986), *Social foundations of thought and action: A social*

cognitive theory, Englewood Cliffs, N.S.: Prentice Hall

Devine P.G., Hamilton D.L. and Ostrom T.M. (Eds.) (1994), *Social Cognition: Contribution to classic issues in social psychology*, N.Y. Springer – Verlag

Hamilton, D. L. (Ed.) (2005), *Social cognition: Key readings*, Psychology Press

Legens S.P., Yzerbyt V.Y. and Schadron G. (1994), *Stereotypes and Social Cognition*, London: Sage

Martin L.L. and Tesser A. (Eds.) (1992), *The Construction of social judgments*, Hillsdale N.S.: Erlbaum

Resnick L.B. Levine S.L. and Teasley S.D. (Eds.) (1991), *Perspectives on socially shared cognition*, Washington D.C.: American Psychological Association

Journals

Social Cognition The official Journal of the International Social Cognition Network

WWW RESOURCES

American Psychological Association

www.apa.org

British Psychological Society

bps.org.uk

INDICATIVE CONTENT

1. Basic concepts in social cognition
2. Elements of Social Cognition
3. Social cognition and the self
4. Processes of social Cognition
 - 4.1. Social attention and encoding
 - 4.2. Memory
 - 4.3. Social inference-Heuristics
5. Attributions
6. Attitudes
7. Stereotyping and prejudice
8. Beyond Cognition
 - 8.1. Affect and cognition
 - 8.2. Behavior and cognition

